

Word Fence

This idea is based on a suggestion from Jo Harper at Beckenham Primary School, Western Australia.

Most classes have word walls – how about a word fence?

Objective:

To put topical words on display in and around the garden.

You will need:

- Lots of abandoned thongs – single ones are great
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Wire or sturdy twine

What to do:

- Start a collection of thongs well in advance of the activity.
- Choose a length of fence to decorate. This works well with wire fencing.
- Ask students to paint the bottoms of the soles of the thongs any colour they like. Some thongs will already be a fun colour.
- With paint, students write one word per thong, on the flat bottom of the sole.
- Before starting, students might decide that all the thongs will be aligned in one direction (or not), or that the words on the thongs might create a message when read. They could even design the wall so that the thongs with their words lead the visitor along the fence, as if a trail of footprints, leading the visitor to discover something.
- Using twine and/or wire, attach the thong to the fence. This can be done by tying the upper part (that would go around your foot) to the fence. The flat sole should be facing outwards.

Tip

Thongs can help cover a wall that needs to provide more shade or wind resistance (you would need a lot of abandoned thongs for that, however!)

